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KLOET & HINCKS' CHECK LIST OF
BRITISH INSECTS (LEPIDOPTERA) EDN. 2.
A REPLY TO CRITICISMS.

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OUR ATTENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN by Dr. J. G. Franclemont of Cornell University to a paper by Juraj Paclt (1974, *Jl Research Lepid.* 12(4):211-212) proposing corrections to some of the family-group names used in the Lepidoptera part of Kloet & Hincks' *Check List of British Insects* (Edn. 2, 1972). Since we are jointly responsible for the preparation of this revised, second edition, a reply from us seems appropriate.

The correction of Evergestiinae to Evergestinae is acknowledged, but the other proposals put forward are contrary to the provisions of the current *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (Edn. 2, 1964) and its amendments, 1974, *Bull. zool. Nom.* 31: 77-89.

Family No. 50, Endromidae, derives from the suprageneric term Endromidi proposed by Boisduval, 1828, *Eur. Lepid. Index meth.* (1): 50, which is based on the validly included genus-group name *Endromis* Ochsenheimer, 1810. Article 29(d) of the *Code* states: "Incorrectly formed stem. — A family-group name proposed before 1961 based upon an incorrectly formed stem is not to be amended for that reason if it is in general current use. Incorrectly formed names published after 1960 are to be corrected wherever they are found". The correct spelling of the name applied to family No. 50 therefore is Endromidae, as published in the *Check List*.

For the same reason the spelling of the family-group names Syntominae proposed by Herrich-Schäffer [1846] 1845, *Syst. Bearbeitung Schmett. Eur.* 2: 49, Cerostominae, proposed by Börner, 1925, in Brohmer, *Fauna Dtl.* (Edn. 3): 375, Enico-

stominae, proposed by Heslop, 1938, *New bilingual Cat. Br. Lepid.*: 82 and Cemiostominae, proposed by Spuler, 1898, *Sber. phys.-med. Soz. Erlangen* 30: 33 are correct as published in the *Check List* and are not to be amended.

Paclt's proposals to alter the synonymy of a number of the family-group names are equally ill-founded, as reference to Article 40 of the *Code* clearly demonstrates.

"Synonymy of the type-genus. — When, after 1960, a nominal type-genus is rejected as a junior synonym (objective or subjective), a family-group name based on it is not to be changed, but continues to be the valid name of the family-group taxon that contains both the senior and junior synonyms.

(a) Conservation of certain names. — If a family-group name, changed before 1961 because of such synonymy, has won general acceptance, it is to be maintained in the interests of stability".

In family No. 11 for example, Limacodidae is the oldest suprageneric term, based on a validly included genus-group name; it was proposed by Duponchel [1845] 1844, *Cat. méth. Lépid. Eur.*: 84. It will be seen from Article 40 of the *Code* that the validity of the family-group Limacodidae is in no way affected by the synonymy of its type-genus *Limacodes* Berthold, 1827 with *Apoda* Haworth, 1809.

Even if the family-group name were still to be based on the oldest included genus-group name, as Paclt appears to suggest, then his proposed synonymy of Limacodidae with Apodidae would still be in error. *Heterogenea* Knoch, 1783, not *Apoda* Haworth, 1809 is the oldest included genus-group name and this was used by Hampson in 1918 as the basis of the family-group name Heterogeneidae.